

THE DICKENSIAN

A Magazine for Dickens Lovers
and Monthly Record of the Dickens Fellowship

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No. 4.

WHEN FOUND—

ARE we to have another "Drood" controversy? It would seem so, for already we hear that Mr. Clement K. Shorter and Sir W. Robertson Nicol have each a new theory and both differing. In the meantime a writer, whose identity under the initial "K." is known to us but must not at present be revealed, has been contributing to the pages of the *Eye-Witness* for some weeks past a series of articles entitled "Edwin Drood Re-examined," which culminated in "A New Solution," and which has brought Mr. J. Cuming Walters into the open again. He speaks of "K.'s" contribution to the subject as an important one, but he does not surrender his stronghold. "K." has replied to him, and yet the matter is still not definitely settled.

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The Dickens Fellowship Cot in the Home for Cripple Children at Alton is now occupied by a nominee of the Fellowship's Charitable Guild. The child's name is Nellie Philpot. She is suffering from tuberculosis of the hip, is five years of age, and one of a family of seven girls. She is the first child sent to its cot by the Fellowship, and the Guild is hoping to secure admission to Alton of another during the next few weeks. The Guild has also been successful in securing admission to Kelling Sanatorium, Holt, Norfolk, of a young woman in the first stages of consumption, and a child of four years into the Convalescent Home at Highgate.

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The Saracen's Head, of Snow Hill, which has been closed for some months past, has been leased to Messrs. Ormiston & Glass, manufacturers, as their business premises. Although it is not the original house associated with Nicholas Nickleby and Squeers, the present building bears the historic name and is in the same spot as its famous predecessor. It is interesting to note that the new occupiers have memorialised the building by placing a bust of Dickens over the doorway, and, further, to cement the connection with the novelist's creations have placed on each side of it life-sized figures of Nicholas and of Wackford Squeers. Panels in relief adorn each side of the doorway representing a mail coach leaving the Saracen's Head, and the schoolroom at Dotheboys Hall. The work has been executed by Messrs. Doulton & Co. We congratulate Messrs. Ormiston & Glass on their enthusiasm in thus emphasising yet another Dickens landmark in London.

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The Board of Education has arranged in the Victoria and Albert Museum, Room 83, an exhibition of the valuable material relating to Charles Dickens which was bequeathed to the Museum by Dickens's

friend and biographer, John Forster. It comprises the original manuscripts and corrected proofs of many of Dickens's works, letters and other autographs, including volumes of his private diary, first and other early editions of his works, often with inscriptions in his autograph, portraits, paintings, and drawings, studies for and proofs of illustrations to his published works, and photographs of buildings and scenes connected with Dickens's life and writings. A guide to the exhibition, with illustrations, has been printed, and is on sale at the Museum. The exhibition will remain open until October.

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Charles Green's famous water-colour paintings of Dickens subjects which were to be seen for some time in the Art Galleries at Nottingham, are now being exhibited at the Victoria Gallery, 123, Victoria Street, S.W. There are twelve pictures in all, lent by the executors of the late William Lockwood, of Apsley Hall, Nottingham, and we believe each is to be reproduced in colour and as engravings.

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The next meeting of Headquarters takes place at Clifford's Inn Hall on April 3rd, when Sir Luke Fildes, R.A., will preside. Mrs. Perugini will deliver a short address and Mr. William Miles give a recital of *David Copperfield*. Mr. Miles has now created a unique record in his profession. On February 6th, at the Bradford Mechanics' Institute, he celebrated his thirtieth annual appearance there with a recital of *The Chimes*. The occasion was a most notable one, and he had a great reception from a packed and enthusiastic audience. We congratulate him on his continued and well-deserved success.

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The story of Charles Dickens's reading tours was told by his manager, George Dolby, in a book entitled "Charles Dickens as I knew Him." Full of facts and interest not to be found elsewhere, it is valuable to students as amplifying and supplementing a phase of the great writer's career which was so full and strenuous. Such a book should be available to everyone who is interested in the novelist to-day, and Messrs. Everett & Co.'s timely announcement of a new edition at the popular price of two shillings net will be welcomed by many. It will contain many portraits and interesting illustrations, as well as a copious index.

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Four pamphlets on Dickens have reached us. Two are reprints of notable sermons preached by the Rev. John A. Hamilton, pastor of the Congregational Church, Penzance, on February 7th, and by the Rev. A. Wallace Williamson, at St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, on February 4th; the third an address delivered to the Old Boys' Association at St. Aloysius College, Birchircara, Malta, by Mr. Wyndham Levy Grech; and the fourth, in German, by Professor A. Baumgartner, of Zurich.

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On another page we offer a set of Dickensian questions, and invite readers to solve the mystery of them.

THE EDITOR.

DID DICKENS LEARN VIRGIL?

By C. M. NEALE

I

THIS question arises out of some statements printed in Forster's Life of the great novelist. Our first extract refers to a very early period, before his tenth birthday. Forster writes:—

"He has been frequently heard to say that his first desire for knowledge, and his earliest passion for reading, were awakened by his mother, from whom he learned the rudiments, not only of English, but also, a little later, of Latin."

When he was twelve years old Dickens was sent to a school in North London, and Forster tells us:—

"At Wellington House Academy he remained nearly two years, being a little over fourteen years of age when he quitted it. . . . there is a paper among his pieces reprinted from *Household Words* which purports specifically to describe it. To the account therein given of himself when he went to the school as advanced enough . . . to be put into 'Virgil,' as getting several prizes, and as attaining to the eminent position of its first boy, one of his two schoolfellows with whom I have had communication, makes objection; but both admit that the general features of the place are reproduced with wonderful accuracy."

Next we have a short letter which the future novelist wrote to a schoolfellow, Owen P. Thomas, apparently in the summer or autumn of 1825, "when he was between thirteen and fourteen years of age." The note is as follows:—

"Tom,—I am quite ashamed I have not returned your Leg, but you shall have it by Harry to-morrow. If you would like to purchase my *Clavis* you shall have it at a very reduced price, cheaper in comparison than a Leg.—Yours, etc., C. DICKENS."

And, once more, there is the communication received by Forster from another contemporary at Wellington House, Dr. Henry Danson, who says:—

"I do not remember that Dickens distinguished himself in any way, or carried off any prizes. My belief is that he did not learn Greek or Latin there, and you will remember there is no allusion to the classics in any of his writings."

Forty years have passed away since Dickens died, and as there are not now living any persons able to furnish authoritative information, we can only compare the above statements and ask ourselves whether the question raised can be answered after an examination of his writings.

If he learned some Latin at school we may suppose that reminiscences or effects of such study would appear most likely in his early writings, while the information was freshest in his mind, and if he had worked at Virgil we may expect to find reminiscences in his earliest sustained work. The few notes now submitted are intended to furnish a certain amount of presumptive evidence in favour of an affirmative reply to the question put.

Dickens's boyish reference to his "*Clavis*" would seem enough

to prove that at school he did learn Latin, and careful readers of the *Pickwick Papers* will find several sentences reminiscent not merely of an elementary Latin book, but of something more. He will find expressions, whole sentences, which read like literal translations from some comic Cæsar. Glance, for instance, at the following "tags" taken from the Gallic War:—

- "His rebus adducti."
- "His rebus gestis."
- "Quibus rebus cognitis."
- "Ea consilio dimisso."
- "Instructo exercitu."
- "Flumen est Arar."
- "Palus erat."
- "Collis erat."
- "Interea ea legione."
- "Interim quotidie."
- "Tum demum."
- "Tandem Cotta dat permotus manus."
- "Ad hæc Ariovistus respondit."
- "Cæsar quum nuntiatum esset."
- "Hæc quum animadvertisset Cæsar."
- "Dum hæc ad Gergoviam geruntur."

With these expressions and sentences compare the following instances from *Pickwick*:—

- "The basket having been repacked."
- "The consultation having lasted about ten minutes."
- "Mr. Weller having delivered this gentle recipe with strong emphasis."
- "The visitors having all departed."
- "The secretary having sneezed in a very impressive manner."
- "Mrs. Cluppins having once broken the ice."
- "There is a repose about Lant Street."
- "This favoured tavern, sacred to the evening orgies of Mr. Lowten."
- "Meanwhile Mr. Pickwick had been wheeled to the Pound."
- "Meanwhile Mrs. Cluppins, with the combined assistance of Mrs. Bardell, Mrs. Sanders, Mr. Dodson and Mr. Fogg, was hoisted into the witness-box."
- "At length, late one night."
- "At length the magistrate, gulping down with a very bad grace his disinclination to hear anything more."
- "At length Mr. Stiggins, with several most indubitable symptoms of having had as much pine-apple rum and water about him as he could conveniently carry."
- "To this inquiry the invisible chorus replied."
- "To this Mr. Weller replied with an easy and unstudied closing of one eye."
- "When Mrs. Nupkins dried up her tears, Miss Nupkins dried up hers."
- "While Mr. Pickwick was delivering himself of the sentiment just recorded."
- "While the good lady was bestowing her objurgations on Mr. Ben Allen."

So far as we have at present gone we conclude that Dickens learned Latin, and also that he read some Cæsar. Virgil, moreover, is not usually the first Latin author to be studied by a schoolboy.

But our task is to answer in some way the question whether Dickens was advanced to Virgil.

It may be remarked here that Dickens does not, like Fielding, indulge in deliberate mock imitations of poetic imagery or similes, although we have in *Pickwick* two specimens which an acquaintance with the earlier novelist may have inspired. The first of these is at the beginning of Chapter 2, where we read:

"That punctual servant of all work, the sun, had just risen, and begun to strike a light on the morning of the thirteenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-seven, when Mr. Samuel Pickwick burst like another sun from his slumbers, threw open his chamber window, and looked out upon the world beneath."

The other specimen is near the end of Chapter 50, and occurs after the statement that Mr. Slurk (then at Towcester) decided to drink his rum and water by the kitchen fire of the hostelry in which he was staying. Mr. Sawyer happened to know of his decision, and the narrative proceeds thus:—

"Now some demon of discord, flying over the Saracen's Head at that moment, or casting down his eyes in mere curiosity, happened to behold Slurk established comfortably by the kitchen fire, and Pott slightly elevated with wine in another room; upon which the malicious demon darting down into the last-mentioned apartment with inconceivable rapidity, passed at once into the head of Mr. Bob Sawyer, and prompted him for his (the demon's) own evil purposes, to speak as follows."

(To be concluded.)

ENGLISH NOTES

A REPLY TO DICKENS'S "AMERICAN NOTES"

By EDGAR ALLEN POE

IN 1842 a Boston publisher brought out the most incisive attack on Dickens that had emanated from America. This work was entitled "English Notes, Intended for very Extensive Circulation! By Quarles Quickens, Esq." It is a sixteen-page pamphlet in the form of a small quarto newspaper of the time, and bears the imprint of the Boston *Daily Mail*, and there can be very little doubt that the author of it was Poe.

The probability is that during the interval between the time of Dickens's visit and the receipt of this letter, Poe, then as editor at a small salary on *Graham's Magazine*, had finally convinced himself that he had been entirely forgotten and neglected by his English contemporary, and he had not hesitated to take revenge.

Apart from his tales, "English Notes" is probably the cleverest bit of prose writing Poe ever did. While in the main it is a travesty, it also is a rather impish retort. There is a parody of Dickens's manner that is as excellent burlesque as anything of Thackeray's, and the satire which occupies a large part of the work is as sharp as a hypodermic needle. So far as I have been able to see, no review of Poe's "English Notes" ever appeared.

The only answer to *American Notes* was a dull, stupid piece,

written in England, entitled "Change for American Notes"; yet, by the inscrutable laws of chance, this uninteresting production is fairly well known, and Poe's retort passed unnoticed.

I think I should explain that in assigning the authorship of "English Notes" to Poe, I have done so on my own authority. Of course the pamphlet did not bear his name, but he appropriated part of its pseudonymic—"Quarles"—for his signature when he first published "The Raven," in the *American Whig*, two years later. For this reason, and as a result of other careful investigations, I was satisfied that Poe was the author, but I was unwilling to make the decision arbitrarily, and so I have had the facts reviewed by others whom I believed to be competent. These, I need not state here, have been unanimous in supporting my conclusion. That the book has been unnoticed by any of Poe's numerous biographers is not remarkable when it is considered that the work was of the most ephemeral character, and the copy in my possession is the only one I have ever seen.—Joseph Jackson in an article entitled "Dickens in America," in *World's Work*, March, 1912.

POETICAL TRIBUTES TO CHARLES DICKENS

LXXXVIII

ON HIS CHARACTER OF MR. MICAWBER

THOUGH in distant years the name of Pickwick be remembered
not,
Deathless still survives Micawber and his greatness unforgot!

While the losing fight is fought, on earth for ever let him dwell,
Roland of the sordid street and Bayard of the debtor's cell.

Life to him no cynic farce where gods in sport delight to harm;
Unimpeachable its worth and indissoluble its charm.

When his slender glass was garnished and his table sparsely spread,
Mantling then like nobler wine his mounting periods gathered head.

When the damp December winds blew hoarse through London's
murky throat,
Bright ambitions warmed his blood, and laughed to scorn his thread-
bare coat.

Planting gardens in mirage, and orchid hopes that fed on air,
Some Hibernian strain of blood, but thrice refined from earth, was
there.

Was his sire an exiled king from Inishowen or green Kildare,
Or his mother changeling bred by fairies on the coast of Clare?

ELLEN ANGUS FRENCH.

New York *Sun*, May 7th, 1911.

MRS. GOODMAN'S, NEXT DOOR THE "RED LION" HIGHGATE'S NEW DICKENS LAND-MARK

By B. W. MATZ

MOST of the London suburbs can claim association in more or less degree with Dickens and his books. Many have land-marks of importance definitely identified with a character or scene in a novel or with the novelist's own life; others have but inferential reference; whilst not a few are mentioned in general terms by name only. In this latter category Highgate figures so far as the books are concerned, and readers need hardly be reminded of Mr. Pick-



Photo by]

CHURCH HOUSE, HIGHGATE

[T. W. Tyrrell

wick's researches in the district; of how Bill Sikes took in Highgate on the occasion of his flight; of Joe Willett's disconsolate walk there from Islington before he joined the "Salwanners"; of the memorable journey which Esther Summerson and Inspector Bucket took in pursuit of Lady Dedlock which included the suburb.

More specifically Highgate is mentioned in *David Copperfield*, where Mrs. Steerforth lived in "an old brick house at Highgate on the summit of the Hill; a genteel, old-fashioned house, very quiet, and very orderly," from whose windows all London could be seen "lying in the distance like a great vapour." Mr. T. W. Tyrrell is convinced that the old Georgian House in South Grove, now called "Church House," is the one Dickens had in his mind at the time. It corresponds in every way with his description, for the buildings now separating it from the side lane were not there in the Copper-

field days. The garden of the house was, and David could have looked over the wall from the lane to see Rosa walking in the garden as described by the novelist. Dr. Strong lived with his young wife in a pretty cottage, "not in that part of Highgate where Mrs. Steerforth lived, but quite on the opposite side of the little town"; and there David and Dora also had a house with Betsey Trotwood established in a small one close by.

Doubtless Dickens had certain houses or types of houses in his mind at the time of writing, for Highgate was well known to him. There is, however, a house in Highgate intimately connected with the novelist's life, the association of which has been recently revealed to us, and which it is now possible to definitely identify. During the period 1832-3 John Dickens frequently changed his address, and lived for a time at Highgate, according to F. G. Kitton in his book "The Dickens Country." It appears, however, from the correspondence between the novelist and his friend Kolle, recently published, that his father merely took lodgings there for a change of air following the illness of a member of his family.

One of the letters refers to these lodgings, and makes it possible to locate them as another Dickens land-mark. Charles is inviting his friend Kolle to spend a week-end with him. "The spot we have chosen," he says, "is a very pretty neighbourhood, and I have discovered a green lane which looks as if Nature had intended it for a smoking place. . . . I am sorry I cannot offer you a bed, because we are so pressed for room that I myself hang out at the Red Lion, but should you be disposed to stay all night, I have no doubt you can be provided with a bed at the same establishment. The address is 'Mrs. Goodman's, next door to the Red Lion, Highgate.'"

After a good deal of research Mrs. Goodman's house has been discovered by Mr. T. W. Tyrrell, who has photographed it and placed it at our disposal.

The "Red Lion," it will be noticed, no longer exists, its site now being occupied by a modern villa. The post on which the sign of the "Red Lion" once hung is still there, however, and can be seen in the picture.

The house stands in the North Road, Highgate, and is marked on the picture with an arrow. A portion of the upper part of the house went over the yard of the "Red Lion," the right-hand ground floor where the window is, being added when the "Inn" was demolished about the year 1900. The newness of the bricks can be discerned in the picture.

It would appear from information we have gathered that descendants of Mrs. Goodman have continually lived there. Our informant, an old postman of the district, remembers the time when Mrs. Goodman's daughter occupied it. He, of course, remembers, too, the "Red Lion," which he frequented until it was demolished.

Here, then, is a Dickens land-mark for Highgate, for, although Dickens stated he was "hanging out at the 'Red Lion' next door," it was actually in this house of Mrs. Goodman's that he stayed with his father, merely using the adjacent inn for sleeping purposes, and perhaps for an occasional glass of the "Stunning."

It would naturally be interesting to have a picture of the "Inn," and we still have hopes of discovering one. In the meantime, we must be content with Mrs. Goodman's, which, after all, is the chief interest, and the signpost.

It may be mentioned, in conclusion, that the novelist's father, mother, brother Alfred, and baby daughter Dora Annie were buried in Highgate Cemetery.



Photo by]

MRS. GOODMAN'S HOUSE AT HIGHGATE

[T. W. Tyrrell

LITTLE NELL

FROM A PAINTING BY F. W. TOPHAM

THROUGH the courtesy of Mrs. Perugini, who possesses the original, we are able to reproduce the charming painting by F. W. Topham of Little Nell as a frontispiece to our present number.

F. W. Topham was one of the novelist's personal friends, took part in the theatrical performances in aid of the Guild of Literature and Art, playing in "Used Up," "Not So Bad as We Seem," and other pieces. Although a well-known artist and book illustrator of his day, and so closely associated with Dickens, the only book of the novelist he illustrated was the first edition of "A Child's History of England," for which he executed a characteristic frontispiece for each of the three volumes, which we reproduced in volume iii. of *The Dickensian*, page 267.

SOME OF DICKENS'S GOOD AND BAD MEN

By MABEL RUSSELL DAVIES

I

THE men and women as shown to us by Dickens in his books seem as portraits drawn by a mighty master hand—so vivid, so real, so human—that they seem not merely the creation of the novelist's brain, but actual living beings, with whom we are perfectly acquainted, whom we like, or dislike, as sincerely as we do folk in real life. There are scores—hundreds—of them. They are good, bad and indifferent, a whole world of men and women. But I only propose to deal with a few of those men who may be distinctly called good or bad.

To begin with a good one, let me take Mr. Pickwick. Dickens was scarcely more than a lad at the time he created this immortal type, and in doing so gave a world-widely-known name to one special kind of character. His hero, in spite of the fact that he was of mature age, was always young at heart. It is this youthfulness, this keen interest in life, that makes Mr. Pickwick dear to everybody. So long as the love for all things human, and kindly sympathy for human ways, remain in the heart, it is fresh, young, lovable, and draws to it all that is best in other hearts. Dickens, with marvellous genius, has made dear to hundreds and thousands of people a man who is not the traditional handsome, gallant youth, the favourite hero of romance, but a man, old, droll in appearance, and who is often shown in a ludicrous situation. But here is no irreverent mockery of old age. If we laugh at Mr. Pickwick's adventures sometimes, our respect and affection for the good old man are increased, and under the humorous outside we see the worth of the soul within. Mr. Pickwick's experiences in the garden of the ladies' school are set forth in a manner that places the passage among the masterpieces of humorous writing, but underlying the absurdities of his conduct and situation is a real chivalry, a true wish to be of service to the helpless. That there was no occasion for these fine qualities to be exercised is nothing to do with the matter. No genius but one of a supreme order could have successfully coped with such a situation.

So Mr. Pickwick remains to us a type of lovable and amiable old age. Yet, almost at the time Dickens was writing his last words in reference to him, he was engaged in delineating a character so exactly opposite that it is hardly possible to believe they come from the same hand. Bill Sikes—ruffian, robber and murderer—is the type of all that is horrible and repulsive in human nature. It is an insult to the brutes to call him a brute. He is thoroughly and absolutely wicked. No spark of better feeling, not one creditable action is recorded of him; he is an incarnation of an evil principle. The small amount of reason which he possesses he abuses, and makes serve him for an ill purpose; he is expert in his wicked craft. His one excuse is the wretchedness and wickedness of his surroundings, but he cannot rise above them, as his victim, Nancy, and his young associate, Charley Bates, eventually do. There is no power

for goodness in him whatsoever. He is as powerless to perceive it as a man born blind is to comprehend what light is like.

Close to him in order of creation comes Mr., afterwards Sir John, Chester. This man is in every way as bad a man as Sikes—nay, worse, for he has had the advantages of a better education, of a better environment, than the robber. Also, he has some glimmering knowledge of what is good in human nature, but steadfastly despises and condemns it. He lives solely and entirely for himself, and his polished manners and amiable phrases are but manifestations of his vanity. It suits him to be looked upon as a model of propriety and fine manners. Sincerity and humanity are vulgar virtues, quite useless to the man of the world, and therefore best left unpractised. He has but one virtue, that of physical courage, and, at all events, he dies creditably—vain, however, to the very last action of his life.

That selfishness was a vice peculiarly detested by Dickens the number of selfish characters shown in an odious light by him plainly shows. But that weakness of character can be disastrous to an essentially good man we equally plainly learn. Dickens was a strong man, and, like most very strong people, he was infinitely tender to the weak.

Such a character as Newman Noggs is a plea for the being who, having all the elements of goodness in him, is, by circumstances with which he is powerless to battle, overcome and reduced to misery. Such characters only require a little, a very little, human aid to regain their former position and their self-respect, and poor Newman is a pathetic example of what can be done when such as he is able to find that aid. Here once more we have a man, who, while not attractive in exterior, is lovable and true within. "I was a gentleman once," he says, and under the worn clothes and grotesque appearance beats the heart of a gentleman always. The distress of poor Kate, the courage of Nicholas, awaken all that is best in Newman, and through them and their influence upon him he retrieves all that he has lost. We leave him, happy to think, that as the beloved playmate of the little children of his two dear friends, he is just where he would wish to be.

(To be concluded.)

DICKENSIAN CRACKER-BONBONS

BY way of variety, *The Dickensian* offers the following seven conundrums, puzzles, or what not, for solution by its readers. They are set by one of its subscribers, Mr. Cedric Bonnell. The Editor offers one of Cecil Aldin's "Pickwick" Pictures, suitably framed, for the best set of answers to same. These must be addressed to the Editor of *The Dickensian*, 11, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W.C., to reach him not later than April 15th, 1912:—

1. Which of Dickens's "Richards" could most boldly declare in true Shakespearean vein that he was "himself again"?

2. Nicodemus Boffin, beheaded, becomes Father Time. But, just how?
3. What official friend of the Uncommercial Traveller's is most luminously suggestive of Brookes' (not of Sheffield) Monkey Brand?
4. If Sim Tappertit had been a cyclist, what "mount" might he have preferably affected?
5. Which of the immortal Pickwickians comes after tea, and brings the ton with him, by way of introducing a Dickensian sister?
6. If you wished to invite *also* one of the Chuzzlewits to your picnic of Dickensian characters, what French possession in the West Indies would you name?
- 7.

A SEEMING PARADOX.

As spitfire still *pleasant*;

Her fame yours to show it:

Take *novelist's* Christian name,
Surname of poet.

DICKENS AND SCHOOLS

By ARTHUR S. HEARN

MUCH has been said and written of Dickens as an educational reformer, and of his great love and sympathy for the neglected little ones and children generally. Mrs. Perugini has but recently borne eloquent testimony to this in her address at Clifford's Inn Hall. In *The Dickensian* your able contributors, Mr. Willoughby Matchett and Mrs. Ashby Norris, have also written upon this aspect of his character. While the former has dealt in the fullest manner chiefly with the school life of Dickens at the Wellington House Academy, describing the forlorn and desolate nature of the place and the poor quality of the teaching material supplied, the latter refers to the child characters of Dickens. It may not be out of place therefore to supplement these by this article, knowing that his interest was never wanting in the necessitous, while his services were always at command on behalf of those deserving institutions founded for their care and upbringing. It is in this latter connection that a speech of some interest was delivered by the great author, when presiding at the annual festival, November 5th, 1857, of that splendid institution, the Warehousemen and Clerks' School at Russell Hill, Purley, three years after its foundation, and established for the maintaining, clothing and educating of the orphan children connected with those employed in the wholesale trades and manufactures of the United Kingdom, at which time it had about forty. An extract from this speech is here given, and is worth repeating not only for the expression of opinion with regard to the schools he did and did not like, and the depth of Christian feeling that concluded it, but to show that if Dickens was always ready to condemn, as some would have it, unjustly, he was not slow in giving praise where due. Said he, "What are the sorts of schools that I don't like? I found them, on consideration, to be rather numerous. I don't like—to begin with and to begin like charity at home—I don't like the sort of school to which I once went myself—the respected proprietor of which

was by far the most ignorant man I have ever had the pleasure to know; one of the worst tempered men perhaps that ever lived, whose business it was to make as much out of us and put as little into us as possible, and who sold us at a figure which I remember we used to delight to estimate as amounting to exactly £2 4s. 6d. per head. I don't like that sort of school, because I don't see what business the master had to be at the top of it instead of the bottom, and because I could never understand the wholesomeness of the moral preached by the abject appearance and degraded condition of the teachers. Again, I don't like that sort of school—and I have seen a great many such in these latter times—where the bright, childish imagination is utterly discouraged, and where those bright, childish faces, which it is so very good for the wisest among us to remember in after life—when the world is too much with us, early and late—are gloomily and grimly scared out of countenance; where I have never seen among the pupils, whether boys or girls, anything but little parrots and small calculating machines.”

Continuing, he said, “Perhaps you will permit me to sketch in a few words the sort of school that I do like.

“It is a school established by the members of an industrious and useful order, which supplies the comforts and graces of life at every familiar turning in the road of our existence; it is a school established by them for the orphan and necessitous children of their own brethren and sisterhood; it is a place giving an education worthy of them—an education by them invented, by them conducted, by them watched over; it is a place of education where, while the beautiful history of the Christian religion is daily taught, and while the life of that Divine Teacher Who Himself took little children on His knees, is daily studied, no sectarian ill-will nor narrow human dogma is permitted to darken the face of the clear heaven which they disclose. It is a children's school, which is at the same time no less a children's home, a home not to be confided to the care of cold or ignorant strangers, nor, by the nature of its foundation, in the course of ages to pass into hands that have as much natural right to deal with it as with the peaks of the highest mountains or with the depths of the seas, but to be from generation to generation administered by men living in precisely such homes as these poor children have lost; by men always bent upon making that replacement such a home as their own dear children might find a happy refuge in if they themselves were taken early away.”

The school to which Dickens went as a day scholar at seven o'clock in the morning was the Wellington House Academy, previously referred to, and kept by a Mr. Jones, a Welshman. Mr. Owen P. Thomas, a scholar with Dickens, says the principal himself was always ruling ciphering books with a bloated mahogany ruler, smiting the palm of offenders with the same diabolical instrument, or viciously drawing a pair of pantaloons tight with one of his large hands and caning the wearer with the other. Dr. Henry Dawson, another school-fellow, says: “Mr. Jones's school was considered at the time a very superior sort of school, one of the

best indeed in that part of London, but it was most shamefully mismanaged, and the boys made but very little progress. Mr. Jones was a most ignorant fellow and a mere tyrant, whose chief employment was to scourge the boys." He does not think Dickens came in for any of this scourging, being, like himself, only a day pupil with whom there was a wholesome fear of tales being carried home to the parents. It would have rejoiced the heart of Dickens were he alive, to see the 320 or so healthy looking, well-fed and well-clothed boys and girls maintained in the schools of the Warehousemen Clerks' and Drapers' Institution to-day, and to hear of the important positions many who have passed through the schools occupy in the commercial world as a result of the education given them, the same might be said of that excellent and kindred charity known as the Commercial Travellers' Schools at Pinner, which received the support of Dickens in a similar capacity. Forster, speaking of this, says: "Of all the societies, charitable or self-assisting, which his tact and eloquence in the chair so often helped, none had interested him by the character of its service to its members, and the perfection of its management, so much as that of the Commercial Travellers."

The governors of these two noble institutions should feel, and doubtless do, an honest pride in the eulogy of so great a name, and its members should revere and honour his memory.

SOME NEW DICKENS BOOKS

ALTHOUGH the author of "Charles Dickens and His Girl Heroines"* has little that is new to tell, the book is worthy of a place on the bookshelves of all young people who are interested in biography. It is written in a light, chatty style, and contains all that is necessary for the information of those to whom the perusal of Forster and other notable biographers is too formidable a task, while the brief interesting sketches and criticisms of the plots and characters of the novels will doubtless send many of its readers to the pages of the novels themselves. The author makes special reference to the girl characters of Dickens, and certainly does much to overthrow the prevailing idea that Dickens could not portray a heroine.

In an American book one expects to find American spelling, but it comes as a shock to find Dickens quoted as having written from Montreal that he was going to act in the "theater." Moreover, we really cannot believe that he walked into Rochester to obtain the *Daily Mail* (the italics are not ours)!

It was Mr. G. K. Chesterton who expressed the wonder that Dickens, who had so many ideas for popular periodicals, never started one called *The Street*, and divided it into *Shops*. Mr. W. R. Thomson is undoubtedly a faithful admirer of Mr. Chesterton, and has given us a *Dickens Street*† peopled by some dozen "shops,"

* "Charles Dickens and his Girl Heroines," by Belle Moses. D. Appleton & Co., New York and London. 1911. 5s.

† "In Dickens Street," by W. R. Thomson. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd 3s. 6d. net.



"DOMBEY AND SON" PERFORMED BY THE SOUTHEAST BRANCH OF THE
DICKENS FELLOWSHIP. (See page 110)

1. Edith Dombey (Miss E. D. Jones). 2. Paul Dombey (Mr. W. King). 3. James Carker (Mr. H. R. Sames) 4. Sir Barnett Skettles (Mr. R. G. Baker); Lady Skettles (right) (Mrs R. G. Baker); 5. Phila Smalder (left) (Mrs. H. Monro). 6. Mr. and Mrs. John Chick (Mr. and Mrs. A. Popham) 7. "alter Gap" (Mr. R. Shear); Florence Dombey (Miss. D. Popham). 8. P. Toots (Mr. F. Whisstock); Susan Nipper (Miss W. Smith) 9. Lucretia Tox (and inlet) (Mrs. H. E. Sames) 10. Major Joseph Bagstock (Mr. W. Miles). 11. The Hon. Mrs. Skewton (Miss M. Britton) Inlets (left, Lord Fenix (Mr. P. Dunlop); (right) Florence Dombey (Miss D. Popham).

and the result is entertaining to a degree. He has a facile pen and a neat way of expressing himself in all the essays the book comprises. "The Day of the East Wind" is the one we care least about; it is a little mixed, and the writer has surely missed the point that John Jarndyce must have named his house "Bleak House" because he so often suffered from the east wind there.

It would appear that Mr. Thomson has written of "A Dickens Mystery" without reading some of the best-known books on the subject. He confesses he has not; but if he had, he might have had something enlightening to tell us. However, the other papers make up for all these trivial losses. "A Dickens Gentleman" is as clever a study of Joe Gargery as we have had the good fortune to come across, and we can heartily recommend it to those detractors who are wont to say that Dickens could not draw a gentleman. "Poet and Town Traveller," a term which might aptly be applied to Dickens himself, is a bright and clever analysis of Micawber, and in "The Eternal Feminine" we are in company with the "admiring husbands" in *Nicholas Nickleby*: we had no real idea of their abundance until we read this sketch; and so on through the whole round dozen—always something fresh, always something bright. "In Dickens Street" is a book to have upon your shelves.

"Dickens's Honeymoon and where He spent It"† is the title of a booklet telling the story of the justification for placing a tablet on the small cottage at Chalk in which Dickens spent his honeymoon, and where he wrote a portion of *The Pickwick Papers*; the work of the Gravesend Branch of the Dickens Fellowship. Mr. A. J. Philip has written it, and he marshals his facts in a lucid and straightforward manner, printing all the letters relating to the matter in a readable narrative, and illustrating it with four interesting pictures.

A new edition has just been issued of Robert Langton's "The Childhood and Youth of Charles Dickens,"§ with all the original illustrations and a portrait and biographical sketch of the author. The book is too well known amongst Dickensians to call for any lengthy reference to it. It remains valuable as tracing Dickens's youthful days in proper sequence, and as supplying many reliable incidents connected with those days which hitherto had not been recorded. Originally published privately by the author in 1883 as an enlargement of his famous pamphlet, "Charles Dickens and Rochester," it was subsequently re-issued in 1890. The present edition is published at five shillings.

Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, our greatest Pickwickian, has given us another "Study" of Pickwick. "Pickwick Riddles and Perplexities"|| he calls it, and the volume is thus well described. Its object is to point to the "pleasant lapses" and "noddings" which occur in the text, and he sets them out in the manner of

† "Dickens's Honeymoon and where He spent It," by Alex. J. Philip. London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1s. net.

§ "The Childhood and Youth of Charles Dickens," by Robert Langton. London: Hutchinson & Co. 5s.

|| "Pickwick Riddles and Perplexities," by Percy Fitzgerald, M.A., F.S.A. London: Gay & Hancock. 2s. 6d. net.

riddles, sometimes answering them, as in the case of "Who can supply the name of Jingle's song at the Muggleton dinner? and in what play does it occur?" Typographical errors, mistakes of artists, lapses in chronology, peculiar punctuation—everything curious and odd finds record in this fascinating little book. Occasionally Mr. Fitzgerald himself indulges in a "pleasant lapse," as when he tells us there are over twenty inns named and otherwise in *Pickwick*. Actually there are more than double that number. "*Pickwick Riddles*" is a delightful and entertaining book which every Pickwickian will quickly acquire.

We have received from the office of *The Review of Reviews* a copy of *The Battle of Life*, translated into Esperanto by Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, under the title of "*La Batalo de l'Vivo*, originala verko de Charles Dickens."* We understand that although translated from the German, the real Dickens spirit is marvellously given, and only diverts from the original English feeling in the case of one or two idioms which were omitted from the German edition.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DICKENS AS A POLITICAL PROPHET

SIR,—We can all recall cartoons in *Punch* and elsewhere depicting Mr. Gladstone and other statesmen in the guise of Mr. Micawber or other Dickensian characters. It is strange how curiously Dickens lends himself to the anticipation and elucidation of political situations of the day.

Last evening at the Fellowship's meeting at Clifford's Inn one of the readers of the admirable papers we listened to again brought this idea forcibly home to me.

A night or two previously I had been to a political meeting, at which a (to my mind most misguided and misleading) speaker, in the course of some remarks on the recent reversal of Lord Curzon's "partition" policy in Bengal, referred to that misunderstood statesman as "that discredited Viceroy."

Last night the author of one of the papers, quoting from *Barnaby Rudge* (Chap. VIII.), read out:—"Write Curzon down 'Denounced.' Put a black cross against the name of Curzon. This (said Mr. Tappertit, gravely) is a flagrant case. Put two black crosses to the name of Curzon." A present-day political situation once again hit off from a partizan point of view! What could be more to the point? The sentiments of the Tappertit press of India crystallised to a T!

Yours faithfully,

WILMOT CORFIELD.

27, Longton Grove, Sydenham, S.E., March 7th, 1912.

A SCHOOLBOY'S CENTENARY CELEBRATION

SIR,—As showing the interest evinced in the Dickens Centenary by "men of the future," I send you the following extract from our local paper, the *Wallasey and Wirral Chronicle*, of February 10th, 1912, trusting you may be able to find room for it in *The Dickensian*:—

"The one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens was

* "*La Batalo de l'Vivo*." *Review of Reviews*. 1s. and 2s.

marked by a very pleasing episode by the boys of the Upper Middle Form of the Higher Elementary School, an episode all the more pleasing because of the spontaneity and unselfishness which characterised it. Part of the boys' literature course provides for the study of Dickens's *David Copperfield* and other works, and as an outcome of this, and acting entirely on their own initiative, the boys considered that they could not allow so memorable a day as Wednesday last to pass unobserved, and decided to mark it by presenting the school with a very handsome portrait of Dickens, suitably framed and inscribed as follows: 'Presented to the Higher Elementary School, New Brighton, by the Upper Middle Form, in commemoration of the Dickens Centenary, February 7th, 1912.' Master John W. A. Slater made the presentation at the close of afternoon school in a very nicely worded speech, asking the Principal to accept the picture for the school as a token of their appreciation and love for the celebrated author. Mr. W. C. S. Jones responded on behalf of the Education Committee, the rest of the school, and the future pupils of the H.E.S., thanking the form for this evidence of their appreciation of Dickens and their school studies and for the very acceptable and unexpected way in which they had expressed themselves."

Personally, as boy and "superboy," I am indebted to Dickens's works for many pleasant hours, and hope to increase my liability as time goes on.

Yours faithfully,

WM. E. S. BROWN.

10, Hale Road, Liscard, Cheshire, February 17th, 1912.

DICKENS'S OFFICE IN DOCTORS' COMMONS

SIR,—In reply to the letter in your March issue, I trust I have satisfied others as well as myself as to the fact of Dickens having had a stenographic office in Doctors' Commons, on which Mr. Douglas casts doubt.

It seems clear to me that Mr. Douglas has either formed his opinion from a review which did not give the proving of the fact, or that he did not read *Nash's* with due care. I am always careful not to make statements I am unable to substantiate, and to give proofs in support of my contentions. Had Mr. Douglas read my article he would have found the source from which I drew my information fully set down.

I did not think the veriest sceptic, in view of Dickens's statement (*Forster's Life*, Book I., Chap. 4), "I wrote the letter from a little office I had there [Doctors' Commons], where the reply came also," and the entry of the name "Dickens, C.," with an office address under the heading of "Shorthand Writers," in the Law List of 1831, could be unconvinced.

Can we conceive that there were two C. Dickenses both shorthand writers at a time when the acquirement of the art was an exceedingly long and painful task, "equal," we are told, "to the mastery of six languages," and in view of Dickens's known proficiency?

The Law List, as all members of the legal profession must know, *was* and *is* a directory, and contained many addresses and much information which were not included in the general or London Directory of those days. The fact of Dickens having his own office in 1830 does not preclude the possibility of Mr. Douglas's hypothesis of Boz having been an employé in some proctor's office; indeed, I think it very likely. There remain nearly two blank years to be accounted for between his leaving Blackmore's office in November, 1828, and his setting up for himself.

I have followed up without avail so many of the recollections of oldest inhabitants and so much hearsay evidence that I am rather callous in that respect, but in this instance there seem some grounds to work upon. The legal mind and precise data of Mr. Douglas have invested the case

with probability; let us hope that due investigation will give authority to his, at present, unsupported propositions. I for one think well of them.

There is, however, one point in my article in *Nash's* I should like to modify. I speak of Dickens's bad habit, or want of habit, in not dating his letters. This, as Mr. R. C. Lehmann kindly points out to me, refers only to his early days; his later correspondence is most carefully headed, the date being often given in words, not numerals.

I have a copy of the Law List of 1831 which I shall be pleased to show to Mr. Douglas or any one interested.

Yours truly,

C. VAN NOORDEN.

THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

HEADQUARTERS.—The meeting on March 6th was devoted to twenty-minute papers by members. Mr. A. S. Hearn, Vice-Chairman of the Council, was in the chair. Mr. Arthur Weaver, in his well-reasoned essay on "My Favourite Dickens Novel," dealt with *Bleak House*, "a much more powerful novel for construction, plot and sustained interest," he said, than the novelist's favourite, *David Copperfield*. The canvas of *Bleak House* is very wide and contains a plot within a plot, wheels within wheels, and some of the finest chapters Dickens ever wrote, and he proceeded to give the reasons for his conviction. Mrs. Witherby followed Mr. Weaver with a paper entitled "David Copperfield." Mr. W. B. Warren singled out a few of the Boys of Dickens as a phase of the novelist's mastery in characterisation. Instancing in each case the different "brand" of boy, he emphasised his points with excellent and effectively dramatic readings. Miss Eilian Hughes's contribution was a notable literary and thoughtful paper, entitled "Dickens and Love of the Beautiful," in which her object was to prove that the novelist was "a true artist in the world of letters," and not merely a writer of tales and creator of characters, and to show "Dickens in his artist's relation to that vital thing of beauty which the artist must create." Of the claim which moral beauty in itself made upon Dickens, Miss Hughes finally referred to his Uncommercial Paper, "The Shipwreck." Another well-thought-out and excellently written paper was the last, by Mr. T. W. Hill, dealing with "The Poetic Instinct of Dickens." His paper did not refer to the verse the novelist wrote, or so much to the often-noted unconscious blank verse to be found in his writings; but to the strong poetic feeling in much of his writing, particularly in his description of landscape. He read short extracts to illustrate his points. At the conclusion of Mr. Hill's paper an interesting discussion took place, in which Mr. Walter Dexter, Mr. Woodford Sowray, Miss Hammond, Mr. Lightwood, Mr. B. W. Matz, Mr. A. S. Hearn and others were the speakers.

BIRMINGHAM.—At a crowded meeting at the Imperial Hotel on March 8th, Mr. W. H. Coley presiding, Dr. J. Murray Moore, F.R.G.S., of Leamington, delivered a paper entitled "The Doctors of Dickens," in which he gave a very complete review of the various types of medical practitioners portrayed by the novelist. The lecturer said that possibly Dickens allowed his powers of biting satire to fall more lightly upon his doctor characters than upon any other type of men of science. He appeared to recognise sympathetically the trials and tribulations of general practitioners and the powers which lay within them, and which they invariably used for good, apart from the strict realms of physic. Most modern novelists make use of the medical profession solely as an

aid to sensational literature, but this Dickens did not do except on one occasion in his earliest work, although he often caricatured them humorously. Most of the portraits of doctors who live in the pages of his books appear to have been drawn from living originals, many of which can actually be traced. Miss W. Böcker gave four short Dickensian recitals, and Mr. E. J. Pratt readings from *Little Dorrit*.

BRIGHTON.—Under the auspices of the Branch the Brighton Amateur Dramatic Society gave an admirable performance of *David Copperfield* before a large attendance of members and their friends at St. Augustine's Hall. The Micawber of Mr. Harry Streete was the most striking feature of the performance. He seemed to revel in the part, and had a real grip of the character. Mr. Harry Willard acquitted himself with notable success as Uriah Heep. Mr. Fred Smith gave an admirable study of Dan'l Peggotty. As Betsey Trotwood Mrs. Fred Smith showed a natural brightness and vivacity. Mr. Ivan Samson acted very pleasantly as David Copperfield. The part of Agnes was charmingly played by Miss Dorothy Forrester. Mrs. Edward Solomon was excellent as Mrs. Micawber. Mr. Lewis Mennich was quite in the picture with his capital study of Barkis. Good work in the remaining parts was done by the following: Mr. Bruce Leigh, Wickfield; Miss Kitty Phillips, Clara Peggotty; Miss Ethel Phillips, Em'ly; Mrs. R. M. Forrester, Mrs. Gummidge; Mr. F. S. Gentle, Steerforth; and Mr. A. Horton-Stephens, Ham. Entr'acte music was kindly played by Mrs. Ernest Barfoot and Mrs. S. H. Harte.

On March 5th Mr. F. J. Gauntlett, the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, gave a Dickens Recital at the Clifton Road Young People's Society. Mr. Gauntlett was in his best form, and held the interest of the crowded audience from beginning to end. His selections were from *Bleak House*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Barnaby Rudge*, and *David Copperfield*. He received great and deserved applause at the close of each piece, and a hearty reception at the conclusion of his recital.

BRISTOL.—The ordinary monthly meeting was held on February 29th at Whatley Hall. The chair was taken by Mr. A. J. Tonkin. The programme was in the hands of Mrs. Robert Brown. The book selected was *Bleak House*. The proceedings opened with a paper by Mr. A. J. Tonkin dealing slightly with the plot of the novel, but more particularly with the several characters that would later on appear in scenes and sketches. The first scene, "The Jellyby Family," was excellent, Mrs. Brown being Mrs. Jellyby; Mr. Sam Tucker, Mr. Jellyby; Miss Brown, Caddy; and Miss R. J. Peacock, Esther Summerson. Next came "The Young Man of the Name of Guppy." Miss Peacock, Esther; and Mr. Fred Down, Mr. Guppy. "The Smallweed Family" was spiritedly given by Mrs. Brown (Grandmother Smallweed), Mr. Edgar Down (Grandfather Smallweed), Miss Bruford (Judy), Miss Marie Lewis (Charlie), and Mr. Chivers (Trooper George). A tiny bit of pathos was introduced in the "Bagnet Family" sketch—Mrs. A. J. Tonkin, The Old Girl, otherwise Mrs. Bagnet; Mr. H. Craik Smith, Mr. Bagnet; Mr. Chivers, Trooper George; and Master Bobbie Brown, Woolwich.

CHESTER (U.S.A.).—On January 25th Mr. J. Thompson, of the Philadelphia Branch, gave a reading from *Pickwick*, Miss M. C. O'Neill read a paper on Watts's Charity, Mr. J. E. McDonough an address on *Great Expectations*. On February 7th the Centenary was celebrated by a banquet, with Mr. McDonough as toastmaster, who read a special poetical tribute by the Rev. W. H. Towle. Speeches by Mr. H. A. Hynes, Mr. F. Selby, Miss M. C. O'Neill, Mr. Frank D. Kane, Miss Alice Donohue, Mrs. Andrew Armstrong, and songs and recitals by other members contributed to a notable and enjoyable celebration.

CHESTERFIELD.—On February 7th the Branch entertained over 300 poor children, as is their annual custom. The children were provided with a substantial tea and conjuring entertainment. In order to partly raise money for the above, a most successful children's fancy dress party was held on February 2nd, when about 70 children were present, many of them representing well-known Dickens characters.

DUBLIN.—On February 28th *The Haunted Man* was the book selected for consideration. The subject was dealt with in a capable manner by Mr. R. Boyd in a most interesting paper, in the course of which he described in detail the principal characters. Miss F. J. Hogg gave a reading from the same book, and the subject was subsequently discussed at some length by Messrs. Young and Collins and others. On March 13th Mr. Chas. E. Tirrell read a paper entitled "Was Charles Dickens a Great Novelist?" intimating that his own views were those of a "crank." Amongst the grounds of objection which he advanced against the author was that his novels were too long. Mr. H. R. Partridge, who presided, said Mr. Tirrell showed a great regard for Dickens and his works, in spite of his criticism. The discussion was continued by Mr. Collins and Mr. Bridgeman.

FOREST GATE.—The operetta performed by the Grange Operatic Club on January 18th was a splendid success. The hall was crowded and the audience enthusiastic. A whist drive was held during February, and the evening was one of the best yet had. Those who were present had the pleasure of seeing Mr. Webb win a prize (?) for the first time in his life. The Reading Circle meetings continue to attract a goodly proportion of members, and a very excellent paper on "Miss Pross" was read on February 28th by Mrs. Barr. Upwards of 1,000 children have been fed and entertained this year. Mrs. Edson, Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Birkett, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Barr, Mrs. Foyle, Mrs. Trott, and Miss Barton are among those who have rendered yeoman service in the preparation of the teas, while Messrs. Freeman and Middleton have been present each time to aid in the order and discipline of the children.

GLOUCESTER.—The monthly meeting of this Branch took place on Wednesday, March 6th, when upwards of 150 members attended. The prizes (handsome books of a Dickensian tone) were awarded as under for the best "costume" characters at the Centenary Celebration on February 7th:—Miss Bertha Boodle (Madame Defarge), Miss Freda Fox (Mrs. Gummidge), Mr. E. J. C. Palmer (Micawber), Mr. D. Gore Boodle (Sydney Carton), and Master W. Higgs (Jo, the crossing-sweeper). There were upwards of 50 entrants for the character-guessing competition, and Miss Joyce Chance, of Newnham, secured the prize with 52 correct guesses from the 170 characters portrayed. Highly commended cards were also awarded to 36 others, many of the dresses being exceedingly true to those worn by the characters impersonated. Great satisfaction was expressed at the success of the Centenary celebration, and even the band had so thoroughly enjoyed the evening that they "knocked something off the account." *Bleak House* is still under study, and Miss West gave an excellent rendering of the visit to the domestic circle of that "innocent humbug" Mr. Skimpole. This was followed by Mr. Stanley H. Jones introducing the members to the birthday party of Mrs. Bagnet. An interesting discussion followed, in which Mr. Moffatt, Mr. Voller, Mr. E. Richings, Mr. Jas. Bruton, Miss Kate Higgs, and the President (Mr. Chas. Fox) took part. Ten new members were enrolled, including the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Johnston-Vaughan). The Fellowship now numbers 198.

HASTINGS.—The Branch gave a concert at the Queen's Hotel on March 14th, Mr. Cleaton O. Dobell presiding. Several of the most pro-

minent Hastings artistes appeared on the programme, and, with the exception of three items, the whole evening was taken up with singing, which was enjoyed by everybody. A reading from *The Old Curiosity Shop* by Mr. G. R. Butterworth, introducing the death of Little Nell, and a musical recitation of character personalities by Mrs. Alf. Cruttenden, were the *pièces-de-résistance*.

HULL.—On March 1st a discussion on "The Flowing Bowl" was opened by Mr. Burden, who criticised Dickens's treatment of the temperance question. Mr. C. A. Brown defended Dickens on the grounds that he faithfully portrayed life and dealt as fully with the bad effects of drink as he did in praising it. Mrs. Holesworth argued that Dickens's attitude to drink was one of good fellowship. Other speakers followed, Mr. Leahair pointing out that Dickens never glorified drink in his serious characters. On March 15th a dramatic recital was given by the members. The evening was a decided success, and served to show the dramatic talent latent in the members. Six sketches, entitled "Jarley's Waxworks," "Help from a sick room" (*The Old Curiosity Shop*), "The Beadle's Courtship," "Dotheboys Hall," "Betty Higden's Resolve," and "Recompense" (*A Tale of Two Cities*) were acted with remarkable success, and two recitals added to the enjoyment of the evening. During the interval a presentation was made to Mr. F. Bacon, Past President, in recognition of his valued services to the Branch.

LIVERPOOL.—Two exceptionally interesting meetings have been lately held, viz., that on February 28th, when Mr. Nathan Stephen gave his address on "Charles Dickens as I Knew Him," comprising many happy personal reminiscences of the great writer's appearance, dress and deportment, and concluding with an intensely dramatic recital of "Dr. Marigold," one of the lesser known Christmas stories; and on March 13th the Branch was honoured by the presence of Sir E. R. Russell, editor-in-chief of the *Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury*, and a Vice-President of the Branch, who delivered his "Dickens Conversation Solo." The veteran *litterateur* had in his youth frequently met Dickens and heard his recitals and speeches, and his descriptive narration of his experiences was hugely enjoyed by a large gathering of members and friends. During this latter meeting, also, the announcement was made that Dr. E. A. Browne, the esteemed chairman, had been elected President of the Royal Institution, an honour duly appreciated by all local literary folk. A presentation of a richly illuminated address, enclosed in a handsome polished wood case, was made to Mrs. E. H. Bell by the members of the Jenny Wren League as a token of appreciation of her untiring and successful work.

LOS ANGELES.—Approaching the half hundred mark, the new Dickens Fellowship met in the Van Nuys Hotel on February 8th, and elected Mrs. Charles H. Eager, of Inglewood, President. The other officers are: First Vice-President, Mrs. William R. Dickinson; Second Vice-President, Miss M. M. Fette; Secretary, Miss Annie Bock; Treasurer, Mrs. G. C. Butterfield. These, with the following three women, constitute the board of directors: Mrs. J. C. Torrance, Mrs. Bina M. Wyman and Mrs. A. G. Moffatt. It was decided to meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, and at the next meeting Forster's "Life of Dickens" will be studied, and the reading of *David Copperfield* commenced.

MANCHESTER.—Mrs. Laurence Clay, a member of the Branch, recently gave a Dickens recital before a large audience at the Gospel Oak Congregational Institute. The newspaper report states that "Mrs. Clay passed from humour to pathos, and from tender sentiment to dramatic power with the greatest ease." Mrs. Clay's selections were from the Christmas Books, *Barnaby Rudge*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and

other works, but "the gem of the evening was a perfect character study of the immortal Mrs. Gamp." The Centenary celebrations of the Branch went with a swing. The Cathedral service, with Bishop Welldon, President of the Branch, as special preacher, was very largely attended; and the Centenary Demonstration on the Birthday night was a splendid tribute from Manchester to Dickens's memory. To the regret of all, Mr. John Harwood was unable, through illness, to give his promised recital of *A Christmas Carol*, but it is hoped that he may be able to give it at an early date. At the monthly meeting on the 1st ult. Miss Clara Gillard gave a most clever and interesting lecture-recital from *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Mr. J. Ambler presided over a large attendance.

MONTREAL.—The Branch marked the Centenary by a celebration in Victoria Hall on February 13th. Dr. Hutchinson, President, with Mrs. Hutchinson, welcomed the guests, and inaugurated proceedings by a brief appreciation and summary of the author's works and life. Dr. Atherton, attired as Serjeant Buzfuz, related a "Dickens Dream," in which he pictured the 1,900 characters created by Charles Dickens as pleading for justice to be done to his descendants. Others contributing to the evening's enjoyment were Miss Horniman, of the Manchester Players, who gave some amusing bits of information about Dickens as known in England; and Rev. Hugh Pedley, who paid high tribute to the author's success in advancing kindly and humane sentiments in the society of his time. Musical selections were rendered by Miss Gertrude McLaren, Miss Bertha Symonds, Miss Elliot, and Mr. R. H. Dumbrille; also readings, "Sam Weller's Love-letter" and "The Flight of Mr. Winkle," by Miss Yarkes and Mr. Flynn, the latter from Braille type. Many well-known characters masqueraded in costume—Captain Cuttle and his landlady, Mrs. MacStinger, Mantalini, David Copperfield, Bob Cratchit, Barnaby Rudge, Fagin, Little Nell, Ruth Pinch, and many others, all acting well their parts, and some defying recognition even from nearest friends.

PLYMOUTH.—This Branch had a very successful gathering at the Mikado Café on February 7th, about seventy members attending. An address by the President (Mr. W. H. K. Wright), music, readings, whist and a substantial supper, with a brief dance, made up an excellent programme, which was much enjoyed by the members. The Tiny Tim Tea on January 16th was a huge success, some seven hundred children of the very poorest class having been entertained in the Guildhall. After a sumptuous meal amusements of various kinds were provided, and the youngsters had a most enjoyable time. The President and Mr. and Mrs. Lobb, with Mr. Lobb as Assistant Secretary, carried out the arrangements, they being supported by about seventy ladies and gentlemen, mostly members of the Fellowship. About £25 was collected for this function. Among other recent engagements of this Branch were: On January 9th, a Social Evening (music and whist); January 15th, selection from Dickens's works by Miss Helen Brinckman; January 29th, Members' Evening; February 19th, paper by the President on Dickens's Christmas Stories, with illustrative readings. Other interesting fixtures are announced. The membership of this Branch is steadily increasing.

SHEFFIELD.—On February 23rd, in the Cutlers' Hall, Mr. W. T. Freemantle gave a lecture on "Charles Dickens and his Visits to Sheffield." These were five in number. Several mementoes of Dickens were on view, including two letters, one to Mr. Wm. Hoole, and the other to Miss Novello, sister to the great Clara Novello, and dated January 12th, 1861; and a copy of the play bill and cast. The second part of the

evening was devoted to a lecture by Mrs. Sowersby on "Weddings in the Dickens World," and which was read by Mrs. W. F. Bagnall. The paper dealt with all the weddings recorded in his works, and was greatly enjoyed. The Rev. V. W. Pearson presided over a large attendance, and the hope was expressed by Mr. Freemantle that the various branches of the Dickens Fellowship in England would make special efforts to search out similar records concerning the visits of Charles Dickens to other places.

On March 11th, at Cutlers' Hall, the Rev. V. W. Pearson, B.A., gave a lecture entitled "Charles Dickens, H.M.I." (or in other words, His Majesty's Inspector). The lecturer claimed Dickens as an inspector of schools. He passed judgment on schools; to do this he required to inspect them, therefore justifying the title of his lecture, "Charles Dickens, H.M.I." The lecturer stated that Dickens had advanced ideas on educational methods, some of which are carried out in the systems of to-day, and proceeded to give instances and to deal with teachers and schoolmasters in the stories. The lecturer did not think that the examples of schools and schoolmasters which Dickens gave were like the average school or teacher of his day. Dickens somewhat exaggerated his pictures in order that those abuses should stand out vividly before the public eye, and eventually lead to their abolition or reform.

SOUTHEND.—The members of this Branch scored a triumphant success at the Marlborough Hall, Southend, on February 15th, 16th and 17th, in their representation of *Dombey and Son*, the hall being crowded each night. The cast had been excellently selected, and the acting was of a high standing. The part of Edith Dombey was admirably enacted by Miss E. Duniam Jones with intensity; Mr. Wm. King invested the part of Mr. Dombey with dignity and austerity; Mr. Herbert Ed. Sames gave a well-studied rendering of the unscrupulous James Carker; Mr. William Miles was seen and heard to great advantage as the wheezy, breezy Major Bagstock; the Hon. Mrs. Skewton was made very realistic by Miss Maude Britten; as Florence Dombey, Miss Dorothy Popham was particularly at home, and the character was charmingly portrayed; Miss Lucretia Tox found as perfect a delineator as possible in Mrs. H. E. Sames; while Mr. Fred Whisstock and Miss Winifred Smith as Toots and Susan Nipper respectively provided excellent merriment. Mrs. A. Popham as Mrs. Louisa Chick was admirable, as was Mr. A. Popham as Mr. John Chick. The Walter Gay of Mr. Reg. Shears and the Lord Feenix of Mr. Percy Durlop must also be particularly noticed. The remainder of the cast, which was necessarily an extensive one, were all acted with conscientious zeal. Owing to the enormous success, a repeat performance took place on the following Wednesday. The proceeds were devoted to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

WEST LONDON.—The Branch celebrated the Dickens Centenary by a social gathering in the Girton Hall on February 19th, not far short of four hundred being present. It was a most enthusiastic audience. The programme commenced with a pianoforte solo by Madame Heimberger. Miss Phyllis Murrel recited the ode to Dickens on the centenary of his birth that appeared in the February *Dickensian*. Tableaux then followed:—Five from *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Oliver Twist*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Pickwick Papers* and *Barnaby Rudge*; four from *Bleak House* and *David Copperfield*; and six from *A Tale of Two Cities*. All were excellently, quickly and artistically arranged by Miss George. Members well portrayed the different characters. Between the tableaux of the different books recitations, music and songs were given by Miss Harries, Miss Florence Watson, Mr. F. J. Staff, Mr. Ben Johnson, Miss Marjory Fane, and Miss Ethel Martin.

DICKENSIANA MONTH BY MONTH

BOOKS, &c.

Charles Dickens. Hans Liv Og Gerning. By Alfr. Ipsen. Copenhagen. 1912.

Charles Dickens in his Works. By Wyndham Levy Grech. *Daily Malta Chronicle Office*, Valetta, Malta.

Charles Dickens. By Rev. J. A. Hamilton. Pamphlet. Penzance: J. W. Saundry.

Pickwick Riddles and Perplexities. By Percy Fitzgerald. London: Gay & Hancock, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.

An Appreciation of Charles Dickens, by the Rev. A. Wallace Williamson, D.D. Pamphlet. Edinburgh: The Dickens Fellowship. 3d.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

"Charles Dickens as I Remember Him," by Lady Ritchie. Illus. *Pall Mall Magazine*, March.

"Dickens in America," by J. Jackson. Illus. *World's Work*, March.

"Dickens on the Stage," by Harry P. Mawson. Illus. *The Theatre*, N.Y., February.

"Women Characters of Dickens; Most Interesting in English Fiction." *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 4th.

"Famous Players in Dickens's Characters," by Edward Freiberger. Illus. *New York Herald*, February 4th.

"Visit of Dickens in '67, as Viewed by Himself and his Devotees." Illus. *New York City Tribune*, February 4th.

"The Influence of Dickens." *New York City Times*, February 7th.

"Charles Dickens." Leader, *New York City Post*, February 7th.

"Intimate Glimpse of the Life and Work of Dickens." Illus. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, February 7th.

"The Dickens Centenary." Leader, *Brooklyn Eagle*, February 6th.

"Charles Dickens at Home," by Stephen Fiske, and leader, *New York Tribune*, February 7th.

"The Dickens Centennial." Leader, *Brooklyn Times*, February 6th.

"Charles Dickens as a Moral Force," by Rev. C. S. Sargisson. Illus. *Wesleyan Methodist Magazine*, February.

"Dickens and Sport," by G. C. *Melbourne Age*, January 20th.

"The Centenary of Dickens." *The Pioneer* (Allahabad), February 7th.

"Boz." *East London* (S. Africa) *Daily Dispatch*, February 10th.

"Ancestry of Mrs. Charles Dickens," by J. Christie. *Banffshire Journal*, February 20th.

"The Drood Mystery," by J. Cuming Walters. *Eye-Witness*, February 22nd, March 7th and 14th.

"Drood and Datchery," by K. *Eye-Witness*, February 29th.

"Charles Dickens" (concluded). *Teachers' Times*, February 23rd.

"Dickens: His Famous Characters," by George Elgar. *Harrogate Advertiser*, February 24th.

"Charles Dickens: The Man and his Books," by T. H. Adams. *Coventry Graphic*, February 24th and March 2nd.

"Charles Dickens," by J. C. Francis. February 24th, March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.

"Bladud," "C. K.'s Sonnet on Dickens," "Charles Dickens and Derby Horse." *Notes and Queries*, February 24th.

"Dickens in Welsh." *Monmouth E. Post*, February 27th.

"Dickens and his Sister Fanny," by Rev. H. Woodcock. *Bridlington Free Press*, March 1st and 15th.

"Further Notes on the Boyhood of Charles Dickens," by A. B. Cooper. *Boys' Own Paper*, March 2nd.

"The House of Agnes." Illus. *Great Thoughts*, March 2nd.

"Rare Editions of Dickens." *Birmingham Daily Mail*, March 6th.

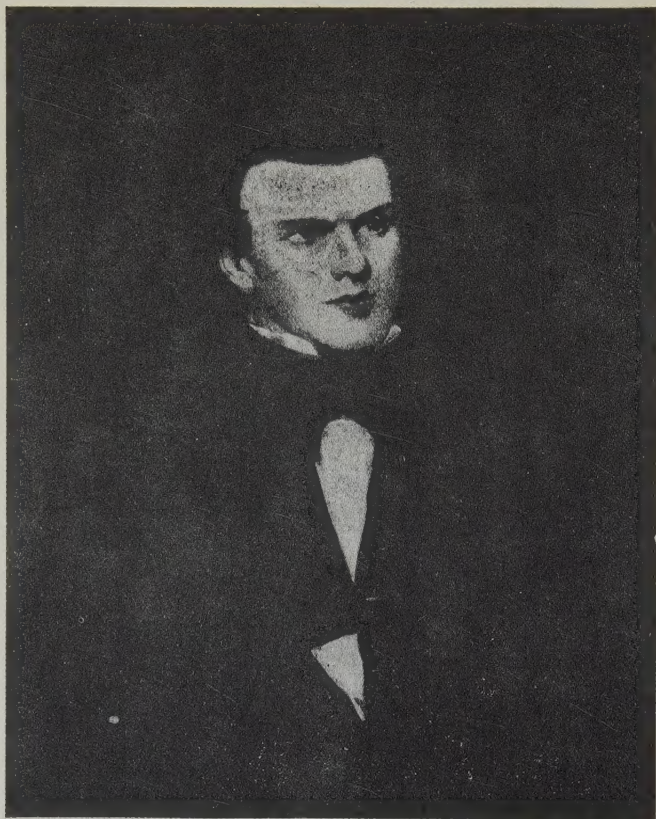
- "The Dickens Family in America." *T.P.'s Weekly*, March 8th.
 "The Illustrators of Dickens." *Birmingham Daily Post*, March 9th.
 "Dickens and Thackeray." *Literary Digest*, New York, March 2nd.
 "Oliver Twist on the Stage." *Literary Digest*, New York, March 9th.
 "Dickens's Dora: a Nurse's Recollections of Maria Beadnell." *Daily Chronicle*, March 18th.
 "A Dickens Appeal" (Dickens wanted in India). Striking letter from Ranjan Krishna Banerji. *Calcutta Englishman*, February 13th.
 "Charles Dickens," by A. C. Benson. *North American Review*, February.
 "Charles Dickens," by M. Medhurst. *E. Sussex News*, March 15th.
 "My Favourite Dickens Character." *T.P.'s Weekly*, March 15th.
 "Dickens as Fancier of Birds and Dogs," by W. North. *Sheffield Weekly Telegraph*, March 16th.
 "Pilgrimage to Dickens's Home," by Walter Dexter. *Boy's Own Paper* March 23rd.

Articles on the Centenary appear in the following Australian Papers: *Sydney Daily Telegraph*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Adelaide Register*, February 7th; *Adelaide Register*, February 8th; *Adelaide Observer*, February 10th; *Melbourne Age*, February 17; and in the following South African Papers: *Johannesburg Sunday Times*, February 4th; *Transvaal Leader*, February 7th; *Johannesburg Sunday Post*, February 11th.

DIARY OF DICKENS MEETINGS

APRIL

1. Plymouth: Members' Evening, arranged by Mr. R. Rugg Monk.
3. Headquarters: Recitals of *David Copperfield* by Mr. William Miles, at Clifford's Inn Hall, at 8 p.m. Chairman, Sir Luke Fildes, R.A. Inglewood (Cal.): Masonic Club Parlour.
4. Edinburgh and Leith: Business Meeting, at 5, St. Andrew's Square.
10. Dublin: "Leo Tolstoy," paper by E. J. Rogers, at XL Café, at 8 p.m. Bristol and Clifton: Dramatic Evening, *David Copperfield*, at Whatley Hall, at 8 p.m.
11. Forest Gate: Whist Drive, at Earlham Hall, at 8 p.m. Belfast: Readings and discussion on *Our Mutual Friend*, in C.P.A., Howard Street, at 8 p.m.
13. Brighton: Meeting arranged by Mr. Francis J. Gauntlett, at Steine Hall.
15. Southampton: Annual Meeting; Music, Songs and Dancing. Plymouth: "Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins," by Rev. F. W. Newman.
17. Inglewood (Cal.): Masonic Club Parlour; English History during Dickens's Time; Readings from *Pickwick Papers*.
18. Hastings and St. Louis: Meeting at 8 p.m. Stockport: Annual Meeting; Election of Officers, at S.S.S., at 8 p.m. Sheffield: Annual General Meeting, at Cutlers' Hall; *Conversazione*, etc.
19. Birmingham: Members' Evening; Reading of Competition Papers.
22. Brixton: *Conversazione*, in Lecture Hall, Independent Church, at 8 p.m. Plymouth: Members' Evening, arranged by Mr. W. C. Spear; Annual Meeting at 7.45 p.m.
24. Forest Gate: Review of *A Tale of Two Cities*, at Earlham Hall, at 8 p.m. Dublin: Closing Meeting of Session; Social Evening, at XL Café, at 8 p.m. Liverpool: Annual General Meeting, Royal Institution, Bold St., at 8 p.m.
25. Belfast: Social Evening, in Shaftesbury Café.



JOHN FORSTER

From the Portrait by Warrington and Maclise, 1830

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